

## The Forest of Condolence

WINGS OF YURI

Translator: Winterbraild

Proofreader: Shijima

Editor: ShiroAka

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IT DOESN'T  
MATTER..

THIS STORY..

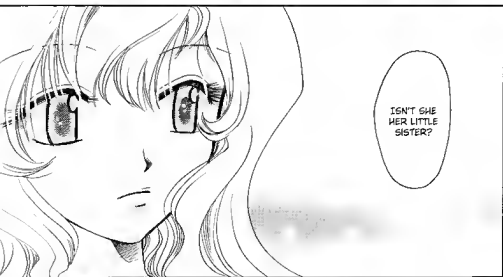
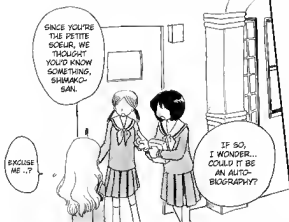
IT STILL  
WOULDN'T  
MATTER.

AND EVEN IF,  
BY CHANCE,  
IT WERE REAL,

ISN'T SHE  
HER LITTLE  
SISTER?

'THE  
FOREST  
OF THORNS'  
...?

IS JUST  
A FAIRY TALE,  
THAT'S ALL.





SHIMAKO-SAN!



PRICKLE,  
PRICKLE...  
THE LITTLE  
THORNS...



...WHY?

BEFORE  
WE GO TO  
THE ROSE  
MANSION,  
HOW ABOUT  
WE GO  
SEE ROSA  
GIGANTEA?



WELL, DOESN'T  
IT MAKE YOU  
CURIOUS?

What, you say

That rumour...



Tap

Tap

Tap

NOT AT  
ALL.

SO DON'T  
LET IT  
BOTHER  
YOU, OKAY?



PREVENT  
ME FROM  
MOVING  
AN INCH.

**MURMUR**

The third year  
Wisteria class  
Satou Sei-san,  
please report  
to the student  
counselor's  
room at once~

Ring-ding-ding



KYAA~

I repeat:  
Third year  
Wisteria  
class...

RUSTLE

RUSTLE



...WOULD  
YOU LIKE ME



I..

Not  
really?



TO HELP YOU  
WITH ANYTHING?



WHAT  
PURPOSE  
DOES MY  
VANTY  
SERVE?

HAM?

SLAM



I AM NEVER GOING TO  
TAKE A STEP OUTSIDE  
THIS PLACE, ANYWAY.



HMM?

WHO WOULD  
STAY AFTER  
BEING TOLD  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT?!

WHY...  
IF SHE WANTS  
TO STAY, NOTHING  
STOPS HER FROM  
DOING SO.



WHY...  
DON'T YOU WANT  
SHIMAKO-SAN  
TO BE WITH YOU?



DON'T  
LET IT  
BOTHER  
YOU.

TWITCH

NEVER MIND,  
I'M GONNA  
GO AFTER  
HER NOW...

Tap Tap



HLHP?

AH, IT'S ALL  
RIGHT, IT'S  
ALL RIGHT!



IF SHE WANTS TO  
STAY, SHE'LL STAY  
OF HER OWN WILL...  
THAT'S THE KIND  
OF GIRL SHE IS.

have that  
Forest of  
Thorns'  
right now?

By the way,  
would any  
of you  
happen to

WHAT  
WAS  
THAT!?



NOT  
FAIR!!

HERE'S  
SOMETHING  
FOR THE  
TROUBLE

THANKS!

SNIP

"YOU  
WANT  
US TO  
PLAY A  
'COOL  
PAIR'..."

IF I SAY  
IT, ARE  
YOU GONNA  
TELL ME  
EVERYTHING,  
NO MATTER  
WHAT?!

"PLEASE  
TELL ME"...  
IS THAT  
WHAT YOU  
WANT ME  
TO SAY?



RUSTLE

CLATTER

YET YOU ACT SO  
PASSIVELY ONLY  
TOWARDS ME...

SWISH

HEY,  
YOU  
FORGOT  
THIS!

NOT  
FAIR...!!



TAP



BUY SOME  
COFFEE FOR  
THE REST,  
OKAY?

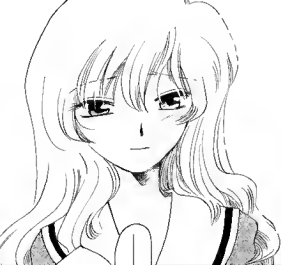


...IS THERE  
SOMETHING  
YOU WANTED  
TO SAY?

NOT  
REALLY...

THIS DOESN'T  
CONCERN ME,  
AFTER ALL...





I LIKE THAT  
ABOUT YOU.

PLEASE DON'T  
FORCE YOUR  
IDEALS ON ME...



HOW  
COLD...

WHEN YOU  
DON'T EVEN TRY  
TO UNDERSTAND  
A THING!!!

DON'T TAKE  
ADVANTAGE OF  
MY FEELINGS!!



...YEAH.





THIS  
SMILE OF  
YOURS...

YOU INTEND  
NOT TO LET  
ANYONE COME  
CLOSE AFTER  
ALL, RIGHT?



EVEN WHEN  
YOU ARE  
RIGHT THERE.

YOU KNOW THAT  
EVERYONE IS  
AFRAID OF BEING  
HATED BY YOU...  
THAT NO ONE  
WILL EVER CROSS  
THE LINE YOU  
HAVE DRAWN.

EVEN IF I COULD REACH  
YOUR HAND.





...STOP!

THE LITTLE  
KITTENS HAVE  
RETURNED.

I CANNOT  
COME  
CLOSER  
TO YOU,



I....!!




I...!

HOW ABOUT  
YOU GO  
ALREADY?

I WILL  
STAY  
HERE!!

'CAUSE  
THE  
THORNS  
ARE IN  
THE WAY.





I HAD A VERY CLOSE  
FRIEND ONCE...  
DEARER TO ME THAN  
EVEN A TRUE SIBLING  
WOULD BE.



I LOVED HER  
SO MUCH...  
AS LONG AS SHE  
WAS WITH ME,  
I DIDN'T NEED  
ANYONE ELSE...



Fu fu



'KUBO SHIORI?'



KUBO  
SHIORI  
WAS HER  
NAME...

IS THAT THE  
SPELL WHICH  
HAS TAKEN  
HOLD OF YOUR  
SOUL AND WON'T  
LET GO..?



I WILL NEVER  
LOVE ANYONE  
ELSE LIKE THAT.



I WILL  
NEVER  
LOVE  
ANYONE








THIS IS NOT  
THE STORY  
FROM THE  
BOOK, BUT...

Station

OTHER  
THAN  
'KUBO  
SHORT'..?

IT WOULD  
BE OKAY IF  
I HAD DIED  
AT THAT  
TIME...

IF SO  
...!



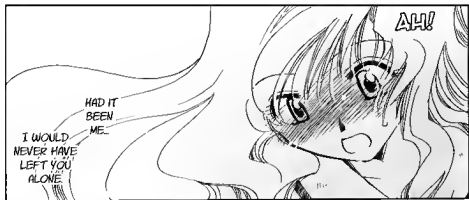
IF SO, YOU SHOULD  
HAVE DONE THAT,  
DON'T YOU THINK?!

...SHIMAKO.

YOU SHOULD  
HAVE DIED!!  
HAD IT BEEN ME...

IF IT WAS  
THIS PAINFUL...

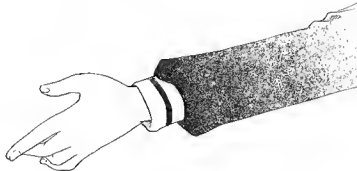
IF THE LOSS WAS  
THIS UNBEARABLE...



YOU'VE BEEN  
SO LONELY...

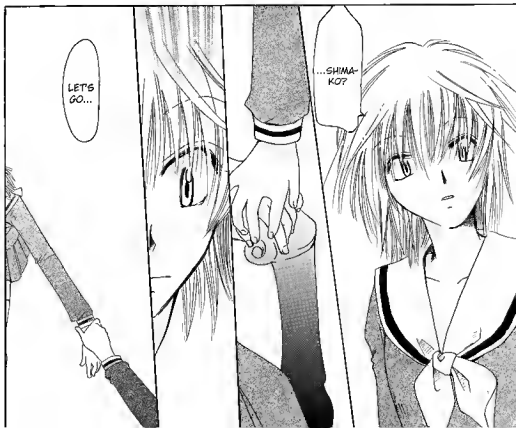
ALL THE TIME,

AH, I KNOW...



LET'S  
GO...

...SHIMA-  
KO?





I MUST NEVER  
LET GO OF  
THIS HAND.

FIRMER...

STRONGER!!!

# WHOOSH



ON THE BEACH,  
IN THE MIDDLE  
OF WINTER...

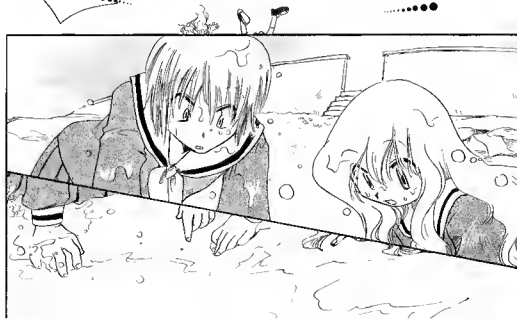
WELL...

...IT  
SEEMS  
THERE  
IS NO  
ONE  
HERE.

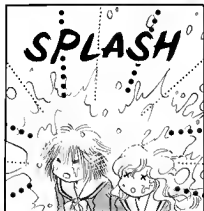
It's  
freezing.

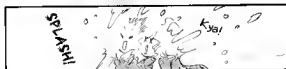












SUCH  
A SIMPLE  
TRUTH..  
BUT  
DEFINITELY,

IF YOU SQUEEZE  
IT TOO MUCH,  
THE TEXTURE WILL  
BE RUINED...

THE OCEAN  
IS COLD  
IN WINTER.

IT HAS  
BROUGHT  
ABOUT  
A CHANGE..

AN INDEFINITE  
CONNECTION..





WHOO—  
ONEE-SAMA...  
—SH



LET'S..!

LET'S  
GO BACK  
QUICKLY!

EACH OF US WAS  
ONLY WAITING FOR  
THE OTHER TO  
MAKE A MOVE..


THE SLY AND  
COWARDLY  
GIRLS THAT  
WE ARE,



AND THE  
NEXT TIME,

LET'S SHARE  
A KISS THAT  
WON'T TASTE  
LIKE SALT!

WAITING..



FOR THE ONE WHO  
WOULD OVERCOME  
THE FEAR OF BEING  
HURT BY THE THORNS

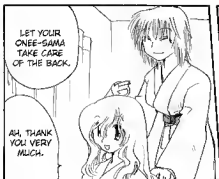
THE ONE WHO  
WOULD LEAD  
ME OUT OF  
THIS PLACE..



ON THE OTHER HAND,  
THE POLICE NOT ONLY  
DID LEND US CASH AND  
A PHONE, THEY ALSO  
ARRANGED A HOTEL....  
QUITE HANDY,  
DON'T YOU THINK?



IS THERE A HOTEL  
THAT WOULD OFFER  
A STAY TO A PAIR  
OF SCHOOLGIRLS  
IN SOAKING WET  
UNIFORMS?



I PERCEIVED  
EVERYONE  
ELSE AS AN  
ENEMY OF MINE..

I THINK SHE WOULD  
HAVE SHOWN UP AT  
THE APPOINTED  
PLACE FOR SURE.

IF, LIKE YOU  
SAID, I HAD  
ASKED SHIORI,  
"PLEASE DIE  
WITH ME"...

SINCE I THOUGHT  
ONLY ABOUT HER,  
I DID NOT NEED  
ANYONE ELSE..



AND THE  
POWER OF  
LOVE ALONE  
WAS NOT  
ENOUGH TO  
WIN AGAINST  
THE ANXIETY.

WE WERE  
NOTHING BUT  
POWERLESS  
CHILDREN...

EVEN THOUGH  
I SPOKE TO  
HER ABOUT MY  
DREAMS AND  
THE FUTURE,

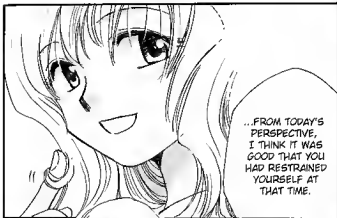




OR SO  
I HAVE  
THOUGHT  
EVER  
SINCE  
THEN.

IS BETTER THAN  
SLOWLY GETTING  
CRUSHED BY  
ANXIETY...

PERHAPS  
A 'DEATH'  
THAT PUTS  
A DEFINITE END  
TO THE YOUNG  
EXISTENCE



...FROM TODAY'S  
PERSPECTIVE,  
I THINK IT WAS  
GOOD THAT YOU  
HAD RESTRAINED  
YOURSELF AT  
THAT TIME.



BECAUSE  
NO MATTER  
HOW MUCH  
YOU LOVED  
EACH OTHER,  
HAD YOU  
THROWN  
AWAY YOUR  
LIVES...

YOU WOULD  
NEVER GET  
A CHANCE TO  
EXCHANGE  
VOWS OR HOLD  
A RITUAL...  
IT WOULD'VE  
BEEN A WASTE.

IT MIGHT  
BE THAT  
WE CHOOSE  
'LIFE' SIMPLY  
BECAUSE OF  
OUR GREED,  
AFTER ALL.

RATHER  
THAN  
LIVING  
IN A  
PARADISE  
WITHOUT  
HER,  
I WISHED  
I HAD  
ESCAPED  
FROM THE  
PARADISE  
TOGETHER  
WITH  
HER...



THIS IS  
WONDERFUL....

SNICKER



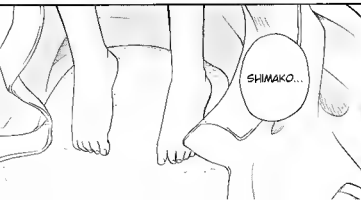
YOUR WORDS  
ARE ALWAYS SO  
STIMULATING,  
SHIMAKO....



MM...



OTHER HALF.



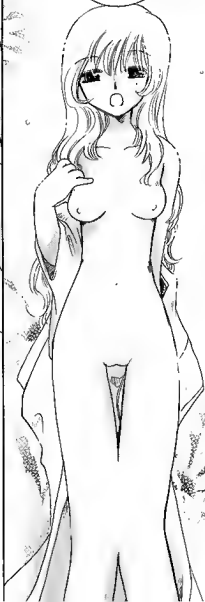


SHE WAS TRULY  
A PART OF ME...  
JUST LIKE EVE,  
WHO WAS BORN OF  
ADAM'S BONE.

HER AND YOU  
ARE COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT,  
SHIMAKO...  
YOU ARE MY  
MOST IMPORTANT  
PERSON, AND

PERHAPS THAT WAS WHY  
SHE CAPTIVATED ME SO.

EVEN IF I AM  
A SUBSTITUTE  
FOR SHIORI-SAN,  
IT IS ALL RIGHT.






THAT THROUGH  
THE UNION OF  
OUR FLESH,

I THOUGHT  
WE WERE  
DESTINED TO  
BECOME ONE  
ONCE AGAIN..

THE  
UNCROSSABLE  
BOUNDARIES



IN A PUDDLE OF LIQUID,  
WE'D BECOME ONE.

I UNDERSTOOD  
THAT IT WAS  
NOTHING  
ELSE THAN  
NARCISSISM.

WOULD  
MELT  
AWAY,  
AND



BUT IN  
THE END,

SUCH  
BLISS..

lick

THAT, AND  
THE RESULT OF  
YOUR SPOILING  
ME WITH TOO  
MUCH KINDNESS,  
SHIMAKO...  
I GUESS.

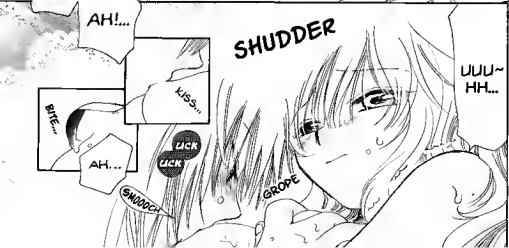
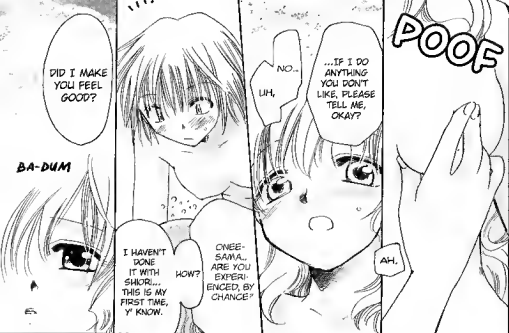
...IS IT  
NOSTALGY  
FOR THE DAYS  
LONG GONE?

Plus  
Hung

STILL, I CAN'T  
HELP BUT FEEL  
A PRICKLE OF PAIN  
WHEN I'M GIVING  
UP ON THAT...

WHICH BED...  
SHALL WE USE?

SNICKER









DIZZY

SHUDDER!



SHIMA-KO...

I'M FINE.

YOU OKAY?



UH!



TOGG

GRIND...



SLIDE

BREATHE,

AH

IT'S ALL  
RIGHT.

SLOWLY...

AH

HA

AH

SHAKE

SQUELCH

SQUELCH

IT FEELS  
GOOD,  
DOESN'T IT?

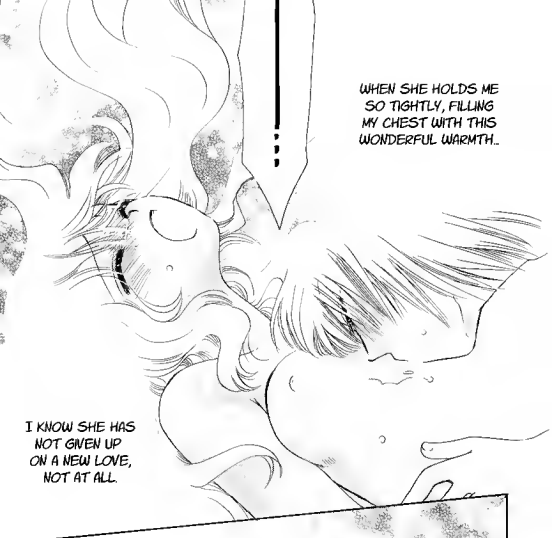
ALTHOUGH  
ONE LOVE  
HAS ENDED...

SQUISH

OPEN UP  
YOUR  
BODY...

ALL  
OF IT.

AH!



WHEN SHE HOLDS ME  
SO TIGHTLY, FILLING  
MY CHEST WITH THIS  
WONDERFUL WARMTH..

I KNOW SHE HAS  
NOT GIVEN UP  
ON A NEW LOVE,  
NOT AT ALL.



YOU TOLD  
ME TO DO  
EVERYTHING  
I WANTED,  
RIGHT?

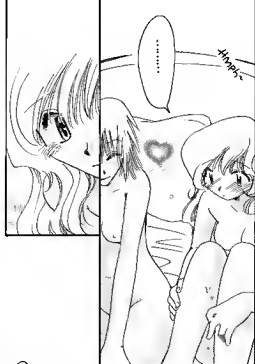
ISN'T  
IT ALL  
RIGHT?

IT'S NOT  
FAIR...!

WHY IS IT  
JUST ME?

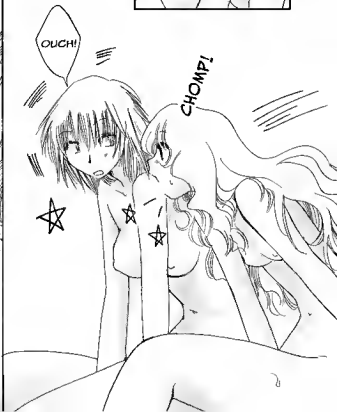
EVERYTHING  
YOU WANTED  
DONE TO YOU...

IF SO,



OUCH!

CHOMPI





ARE  
THESE  
NOT...

THE MAGIC WORDS  
THAT AWAKENED  
THE SLEEPING  
BEAUTY FROM  
HER SLUMBER?

I LOVE YOU,  
ONEE-SAMA.

MORE  
THAN  
ANYONE  
ELSE.

Oh, isn't it  
a bit late  
for that?  
And we are  
the same in  
this regard,  
I believe?



You have  
losing;  
don't you~

WHAAT!?  
ARE YOU  
SERIOUS!?

I'm still going  
to do what  
I planned,  
though!

*The End*